

California Strategic Growth Council

Strategic Plan Public Review Draft

December 6, 2011

The Strategic Growth Council is accepting public comment on this Strategic Plan Public Review Draft from December 6, 2011 through 5:00 pm January 3, 2012.

All comments should be sent electronically to StrategicPlan@sgc.ca.gov. All comments will receive a reply confirming receipt. When applicable, please reference specific line numbers. Please note that all comments may be shared publicly, either summarized or verbatim.

All comments received before 5:00 pm January 3, 2012 will be aggregated and presented to the Strategic Growth Council, including staff responses. This aggregation and response will be published on the SGC's website (sgc.ca.gov) ten days before the Council takes action on the plan.

The Council is tentatively scheduled to take action on the Strategic Plan on January 24th at a public meeting in Sacramento. See http://sgc.ca.gov/council_meetings.html for up-to-date meeting information.

Contents

A Call to Action	3
Background on the Strategic Growth Council	4
Strategic Plan Horizon	5
Our Vision	5
Our Mission	5
Our Stakeholders	5
Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainability Objectives.....	6
Principles for Actions.....	7
Action Plan.....	8
Strategy 1: Coordinate State Programs to Achieve Sustainability Objectives.....	8
Strategy 2: Provide Local Assistance	12
Strategy 3: Fund and Distribute Data & Information	15
Strategy 4: Recommend Policies Advancing Sustainable Communities.....	17
Roles & Responsibilities.....	18
Looking Ahead	20
Appendix A: Strategic Planning Process & Participants.....	21
Appendix B: SGC Data Project Descriptions	25
Appendix C: SB 732 (2008), Chapter 13.....	26

1 A Call to Action

2 The first years of the 21st century have seen great uncertainty and volatility: a global
3 recession; crises in the housing and financial markets; extreme weather events; and
4 competition for increasingly scarce resources, especially energy and water. These
5 events present grave challenges to California communities.

6 In California and elsewhere, governments, businesses, institutions, households and
7 individuals are striving to meet these challenges through innovative initiatives based on
8 the concept of sustainability. In its most essential form, sustainability means using
9 resources wisely and efficiently to meet current needs while ensuring these resources
10 are available for future generations. In taking this path, communities are seeking to
11 achieve improved quality of life, public health and economic revitalization, with
12 benefits available to all residents.

13 California's efforts are further driven by the realities of projected population growth
14 and demographic change, major infrastructure needs, strained ecosystems, and severe
15 fiscal constraints. California's population is projected to reach almost 47 million people
16 by 2030. How can we accommodate this change and growth so that all Californians
17 have shared access to economic opportunity and good jobs; can live in healthy,
18 resilient and well planned communities?

19 The answer to this central question must involve planning for a future that will be
20 profoundly different than the past. Our complex challenges demand new and
21 innovative solutions, and a more integrated approach to natural resource management
22 and infrastructure investments.

23 Leadership rises in challenging times. California's leaders at all levels of government
24 and the private and civic sectors are called forth to meet the challenges for our shared
25 and interconnected future—one that is envisioned to be prosperous, healthy, vibrant,
26 resource efficient and resilient.

27 The Strategic Growth Council brings together several agency secretaries in an effort to
28 plan for future growth patterns of California, and how we will provide housing,
29 transportation, food and other necessities to Californians, while at the same time
30 protecting the environment and agriculture and meeting our climate goals.

31 The plan that follows charts the Strategic Growth Council's continued path toward this
32 future.

Background on the Strategic Growth Council

The Strategic Growth Council was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 732¹ (Steinberg). The Council is comprised of the agency Secretaries of Business, Transportation and Housing; Health and Human Services; Environmental Protection; and Natural Resources; as well as the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and one public member appointed by the Governor. The Council is charged with four main tasks to encourage the development of sustainable communities,² as follows:

- (a) Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, encourage sustainable land use planning, and revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner.
- (b) Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities.
- (c) Provide, fund and distribute data and information to local governments, and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.
- (d) Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.

Throughout this document, the term "Council" is used to refer specifically to Council Members named above. The term "Strategic Growth Council" (or SGC) is used more broadly in referring to Council members, staff supporting the Council and their collective work efforts.

¹ See California Public Resources Code, Chapters 12 and 13, specifically 75125, sections (a) – (d).

² Sustainable communities are defined in statute as communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. See California Government Code, Section 65041.1.

Strategic Plan Horizon

This Strategic Plan sets priorities and goals for the Strategic Growth Council for a three-year period, from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

Our Vision

Healthy, vibrant, and resilient California communities, environment, and economy.

Our Mission

The Strategic Growth Council coordinates the activities of State agencies and partners with stakeholders to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians.

Our Stakeholders

The Strategic Growth Council has a broad and diverse set of stakeholders that are integral to the success of the SGC mission. These stakeholders include all levels of government (cities, counties, local jurisdictions, regional and Federal agencies), non-profit organizations and associations, the private sector, as well as State agencies outside the purview of the SGC.

Throughout the summer of 2011 the SGC engaged over 150 stakeholders to discuss and provide input and advice on potential programmatic priorities. Their ideas and suggestions have informed this plan. A list of participants can be found on pages 22-24.

The synergy of working together can lead to more effective and responsive government, and more progress toward a sustainable California.

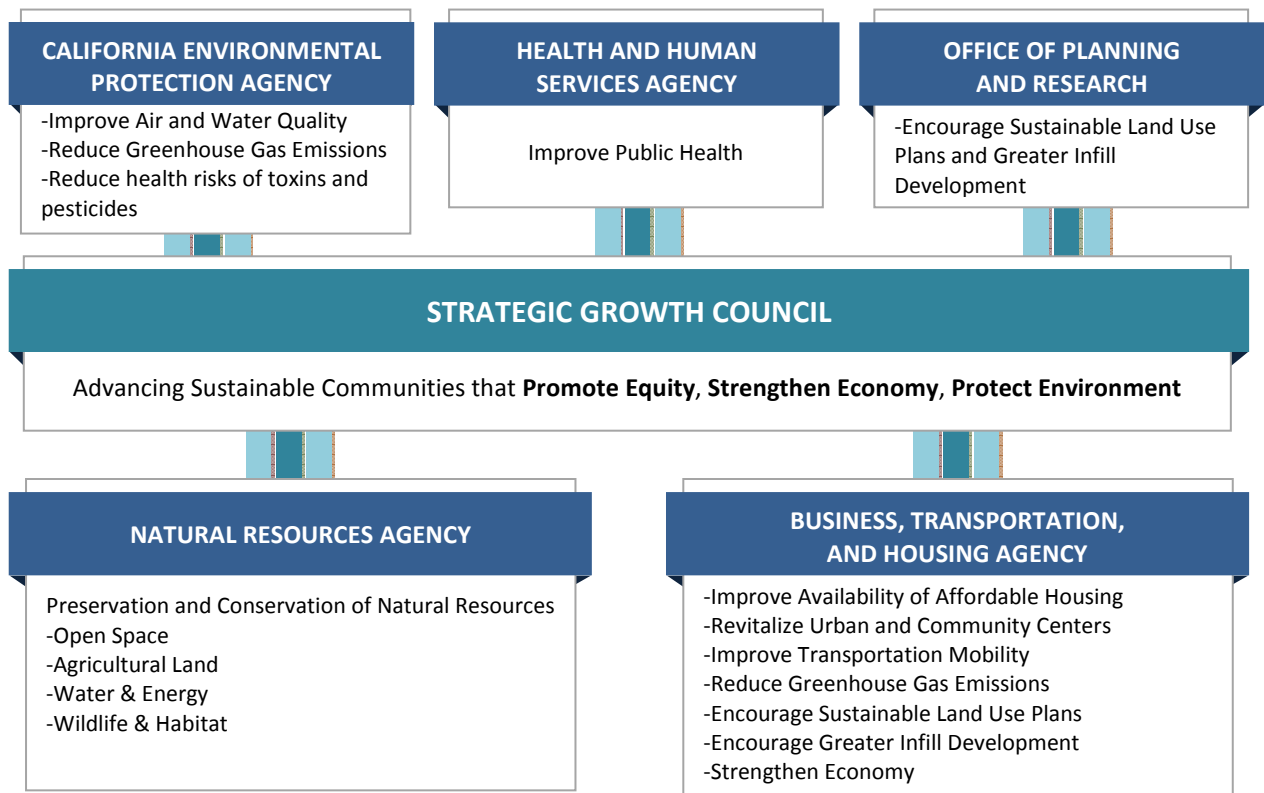
Strategic Growth Council's Sustainability Objectives

As set forth in SB 732, the Strategic Growth Council's sustainability objectives are to:

- Improve air and water quality
- Improve protection of natural resources and agricultural lands
- Increase the availability of affordable housing
- Improve public health
- Improve transportation
- Encourage sustainable land use plans and greater infill development
- Revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Just as land use and transportation plans are inexorably linked, they are also tied to natural resource conservation, public health outcomes, and air and water quality. So, too, are the availability of affordable housing, greater infill development, and revitalization of urban and community centers tied to economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental justice. The Strategic Growth Council was created to coordinate activities of State agencies to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all residents of California.

Intersecting Objectives of Sustainability Policy



Coordination of state activities helps assist local jurisdictions in planning and implementing sustainable communities. The SGC provides a forum for driving strategic alignment that will multiply the impact of each agency's program planning, policies, regulations, and funding.

Principles for Actions

Actions were chosen based on consistency with six core principles. These criteria serve to guide implementation and establish priorities for the action items, given the three-year time horizon of this plan and the resource constraints of all levels of government. The core principles are described below.

To the extent possible, each action must:

1. Work toward the Strategic Growth Council’s **mission and mandate** as defined by SB 732 (Steinberg 2008);
2. Leverage and **rely on the multi-agency structure** of the SGC;
3. Preserve and protect the **environment**, grow the **economy**, and enhance social **equity** and environmental justice;
4. **Advance the State Planning Priorities** (pursuant to Government Code § 65041.1, AB 857, Wiggins 2002), which includes the promotion of infill and other efficient development patterns, and the protection of environmental and agricultural resources;
5. **Identify the resources** necessary for successful implementation; and
6. Have a significant **positive impact**.

Action Plan

The four strategies included in this plan follow the legislative mandates of the SGC. The strategies are supported by one or more “Actions” identified to accomplish the strategic objectives.

To enhance common understanding, a high-level description is provided of the purpose and proposed methods for accomplishing each action. Actions will be prioritized for implementation, and an implementation plan developed for each, which will further refine and detail the methods through which the action will be accomplished.

Strategy 1

Coordinate State Programs to Achieve Sustainability Objectives

“Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve...[sustainability objectives³].”

1. **Coordinate across agencies the programs, activities, and funding** which contribute to sustainability objectives in order to enhance their collective impact and inform or influence future investment strategies and funding decisions.

Purpose: In striving to advance the principles of sustainability, the whole of State programs is greater than the sum of the parts. SGC member agencies, and many of the departments within them, fund and administer numerous programs and activities that are individually designed to support sustainability objectives. When appropriate, programs and activities should be coordinated to maximize their impact and effectiveness. Further, evaluating and understanding where opportunities exist to coordinate current funding, programs, and activities will help influence future funding decisions, investment strategies, or new policies.

Methods: Council Members will direct staff to cooperate as necessary to implement this action within and across agencies and departments. Key Staff (or designated staff) will define a process and criteria to identify and create an inventory of programs, activities and funding sources in their departments and agencies that are relevant to sustainability goals and outcomes, and allow for discretion in how they’re implemented. Based on evaluation of collective inventories, Key staff will recommend strategies for improved coordination, future investment and funding decisions, or new policies to be presented to the Council for consideration. For example, one strategy that may be brought forth for consideration is the adoption of an Integrated Resource Management⁴ approach to natural resource management. Individual recommendations may lead to the formation of work groups designated to implement the recommendation. SGC Executive Staff will assist agency staff and/or designated work groups in implementing the recommendations approved by the Council.

Lead: SGC Key Staff

³ Refer to the list of SGC’s sustainability objectives found on page 6 of this document.

⁴ Integrated resource management (IRM) is a planning and decision making process that coordinates resource use so that the long term sustainable benefits are optimized and conflicts among users are minimized. IRM brings together all resource groups rather than each working in isolation to balance the economic, environmental, and social requirements of society. IRM includes planning for minerals, forests, recreation, wilderness, energy, wildlife, and parks.

2. **Identify policies and regulations that create barriers** to the development and implementation of sustainable communities; develop recommendations for mitigating or removing barriers.

Purpose: There are significant barriers to infill and related sustainable development. It is desirable for programs and policies to work in concert to support local and regional governmental agencies in achieving sustainability objectives. Programs or policies of varying agencies may not be as supportive or well aligned as they could or should be. Identifying barriers is necessary in working toward resolution.

Methods: The Department of Housing and Community Development's Catalyst Program is an example of State agencies partnering to support implementation of sustainable communities. In similar and other means, possibly including case studies, SGC Executive Staff and Key Staff will partner with stakeholders to analyze where policies could incentivize sustainable development measures or where they may be creating barriers for local governments in developing and implementing sustainable communities. For example, an area of focus may be "transit priority projects" or mixed-use infill developments with affordable housing near transit. This will identify opportunities and potential recommendations for addressing barriers and supportive policies and program measures.

Leads: Governor's Office of Planning & Research; Business, Transportation & Housing Agency

3. Support California Technology Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in **coordinating the State's geospatial data assets** across agencies and departments.

Purpose: Well coordinated, geospatial data can provide high value in sustainability planning. Various data "layers" can be combined to provide a geographic view of important considerations such as identification of prime farmland, sensitive habitats, and watersheds; existing and planned transportation infrastructure and housing; jurisdictional and parcel boundaries. Many of these assets are held in various State agencies and departments, making data difficult to locate and time consuming to collect and combine. By better coordinating the State's geospatial data assets, locating and utilizing information important to sustainability planning can be made more efficient and cost-effective.

Methods: The California Technology Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research have embarked on an effort to identify and inventory the geospatial data assets held by the state. Council Members' leadership will be necessary to secure participation across state government; designated staff will assist with the identification of high value geospatial data assets requiring ongoing maintenance and would benefit stakeholders with a central point of access.

Leads: California Technology Agency / Governor's Office of Planning and Research

172 4. Promote incorporation of SB 732's objectives into the **state's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan**⁵.

173 **Purpose:** Today's decisions on State infrastructure spending can have a profound, concrete impact
174 on the future of California's environment, economy, and communities. Thus, it is important that
175 these decisions fully embrace the State's planning priorities and sustainability objectives, as
176 interpreted by the Environmental Goals and Policy Report⁶. The Department of Finance currently
177 requires that state departments explain how their capital budget outlays are consistent with state
178 planning priorities, but this may not be sufficient to successfully incorporate these objectives into
179 infrastructure investment decisions.

180 **Methods:** A work group created by the Executive Director and Key Staff will review the Capital
181 Outlay Budget Proposal process to make recommendations on how planning priorities and
182 sustainability objectives can be more fully integrated into the development of the Five-Year
183 Infrastructure Plan administered by the Department of Finance. Council Members will provide
184 leadership to encourage their agencies' cooperation, and may request an assessment of how
185 infrastructure investments within their agencies and departments support state planning priorities.

186 **Lead:** SGC Executive Staff

⁵ See California Government Code, Section 13102. The Five-Year Infrastructure Plan presents the departments' infrastructure needs and the Governor's proposed plan for funding future state-owned infrastructure. Notably, the plan does not apply to federal funding streams, such as federal transportation funds or federal education funds.

⁶ See California Government Code, Sections 65041-65049. The Environmental Goals and Policy Report presents a forward-looking 20-30 year overview of state growth and development, state environmental goals and objectives, and descriptions of policies and programs to meet statewide goals. This report, created by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, is to be updated every four years. Once approved, the report is to serve as a guide for state expenditures.

5. Align agency actions and policies to promote healthy communities and healthy public policy through the work of the **Health in All Policies Task Force**.

Purpose: The HiAP Task Force brings together twenty state agencies, departments, and offices to incorporate a health perspective across the executive branch and to advance coordinated policies that foster healthy, sustainable communities.

Methods: The Health in All Policies Task Force, staffed by the Department of Public Health, will continue to develop implementation plans for the recommendations in its December 2010 *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council*⁷, beginning with the eleven recommendations approved⁸ by the Council as priorities for near-term implementation. The Task Force will continue to identify prospective resources for implementation of recommendations identified in the December 2010 report, with additional implementation plans to be developed and implemented as funding allows. As needed and feasible, the Task Force will also consider development of new recommendations for Council consideration and approval. The Council's role is to provide guidance and endorsement, where appropriate, to the work efforts of the Task Force; and to report how their respective agencies are supporting Health in All Policies efforts.

Lead: Department of Public Health

6. Promote the incorporation of SGC's sustainability objectives in the San Joaquin Valley's **High Speed Rail station area planning** efforts.

Purpose: The CA High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have announced that they will contribute several million dollars to support station area planning surrounding the planned High Speed Rail stations in the San Joaquin Valley. Given the impact that the proposed High Speed Rail system would have on Valley communities, the Strategic Growth Council intends that the use of these planning funds will incorporate the SGC's holistic sustainability objectives and environmental justice principles. By working with CHSRA, FRA, and station area cities, the SGC can promote use of these funds to plan for livable, sustainable communities.

Methods: In 2011 a partnership formed between the CHSRA and several federal agencies with the goal of encouraging a more sustainable high speed train system in California, and their effort will include working with station area cities to encourage sustainable development in communities affected by California High Speed Rail. The SGC will work with this existing partnership and with station area cities to promote the incorporation of SGC's sustainability objectives and environmental justice in these station area planning activities. Specifically, this will include (a) reviewing and commenting on cities' proposed Scopes of Work for use of CHSRA/FRA station area planning funds; and (b) use the SGC's outreach program (Action 9) to connect station area cities to planning resources and to one another.

Lead: SGC Executive Staff

⁷ December 3, 2010 report can be found online: http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP_Task_Force_Report.pdf

⁸ Priorities for Near-Term Implementation approved by the Council at June 1, 2011 SGC meeting.

Strategy 2

Provide Local Assistance

“Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.”

7. **Administer and evaluate grant programs** (Urban Greening Grant Program, Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program, and Modeling Incentive awards); and document lessons learned.

Purpose: By passing Proposition 84 of 2006, the people of California indicated their support for activities to “revitalize our communities and make them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening.” Three Proposition 84 competitive grant programs, administered on behalf of the SGC, help local governments plan for future population growth and climate change impacts; assist Metropolitan Planning Organizations in developing tools to support SB 375⁹ (2008) requirements; and support various greening projects in urban communities.¹⁰ To help focus assistance to those most in need, some of these grant funds are prioritized for communities more vulnerable to climate change, for economically disadvantaged communities, and for proposals that address an environmental justice issue. Evaluation of the grants is critical to confirm that these programs achieve their desired sustainability outcomes. Furthermore, evaluation can help determine any remaining funding gaps, potentially leading to recommendations for future funding focus areas.

Methods: The Urban Greening Grants program will conduct its second and third round of grants, to be awarded in 2012 and 2013. The Planning Grant and Incentive Program will conduct its second round of grants, to be awarded in 2012, and will then evaluate options for most effectively distributing remaining funds. These two programs both include technical assistance, which is targeted especially to those applicants with less technical capacity. The Modeling Incentives funds have been fully awarded and reimbursement will continue until grant objectives are fulfilled. Program staff of all three programs will assist SGC Executive Staff to evaluate recipients’ progress toward sustainability objectives, document best practices, and publicize lessons learned. SGC Executive Staff will share these and any recommendations with the Council. Recipients of the three programs may be called upon to present their progress and outcomes to the Council.

Lead:

Urban Greening Grants: Natural Resources Agency

Sustainable Community Planning Grants: Department of Conservation

Modeling Incentives: Department of Transportation

⁹ See Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008.

¹⁰ These three programs collectively fund cities, counties, councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, joint powers authorities, nonprofit organizations, and special districts.

8. **Further the objectives of SB 375** through review, reporting and evaluation of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) progress on their grant-funded projects.

Purpose: Recognizing the opportunity to incorporate other sustainability objectives into the Sustainable Community Strategies of Regional Transportation Plans and other land use plans, the SGC has provided funding to all MPOs through both the Modeling Incentives program and Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives program. By reviewing and evaluating these efforts, the SGC will provide an opportunity for MPOs to share their progress and lessons learned with one another, and to identify needs for further State assistance and partnerships.

Methods: The SGC will request an annual report from each MPO on the progress toward completion of their grant funded projects, with particular attention to how the SGC sustainability objectives are being addressed. Reports requested by the SGC will be reviewed by a staff working group assigned by the SGC Key Staff (in coordination with grant administration staff). The staff review will be based on the funding criteria established for the grant programs; will examine the links to an MPO's draft or adopted Sustainable Community Strategy, if available; and will highlight any need for state partnerships or assistance. Reviews will be presented to the Council and will be made available to other MPOs to promote peer learning. Environmental Protection Agency staff will facilitate this process in its role as the chair of California's Climate Action Team and will ensure connections are made to appropriate state climate change programs for both greenhouse gas emission reductions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Lead: Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency

9. Enhance access to funding for sustainability projects by **supporting and further developing the Funding Wizard**, an online tool that searches sustainability grants and incentives.

Purpose: As California's local governments continue to face resource constraints, their ability to pursue sustainability measures increasingly depends upon grants and financial incentives. Furthermore, the fact that these incentives are scattered across dozens of federal departments, state agencies, and regional utilities can make it difficult for applicants to find and track various funding opportunities. The Funding Wizard is an online tool that addresses this problem by compiling these sustainability-focused grants and incentives into one searchable database available on-line.

Methods: With funding from the Strategic Growth Council, staff of the Air Resources Board will continue to work closely with project partners to maintain and further develop the Funding Wizard. This includes expanding the Funding Wizard to encompass all of the SGC's sustainability objectives, enhancing the user interface, hosting the site, and maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date listing of funding sources. In addition to SGC, project partners include the Natural Resources Agency CERES Program, UC Davis, Public Utilities Commission, Engage 360, California Workforce Investment Board Green Collar Jobs Council, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Lead: Air Resources Board

- 291 10. Establish an **outreach and education program** that creates opportunities for local governments and
292 regional agencies to **network, learn, identify barriers** and **share best practices** for achieving
293 sustainability goals.

294 **Purpose:** The SGC's mission of fostering sustainable communities critically depends upon
295 cooperation and initiative from cities, counties, and regional agencies. These local stakeholders rely
296 upon not only financial assistance, but also peer-to-peer guidance, information resources, and
297 identification of best practices. The SGC recognizes that local governments, regional agencies, and
298 State agencies can learn a great deal from one another. Peer-to-peer communication is happening
299 in various forums throughout the state. SGC can leverage those peer-to-peer contacts by creating a
300 common platform for broad, coordinated and strategic dialogue. Among other benefits, this
301 program will help increase the capacity of local governments and regional agencies, including
302 eligible SGC grant applicants, by increasing their access to information and resources.

303 **Methods:** SGC Executive Staff and Key Staff will assemble a work group to develop an outreach
304 program and (a) research the needs of key stakeholders, (b) develop an inventory of existing
305 resources, and (c) create a platform for local stakeholders to connect with state resources and for
306 state and local agencies to connect with one another. This program will leverage other outreach
307 programs in the state in a coordinated manner. This work group will evaluate the SGC's outreach
308 efforts and document lessons learned, including barriers to developing sustainable communities.
309 This may lead to recommendations from the Strategic Growth Council to address mitigating
310 barriers or future local government outreach efforts.

311 **Lead:** Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Strategy 3

Fund and Distribute Data & Information

“Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.”

11. Continue support for the four existing SGC data projects through to their completion: **Vegetation Mapping, Parcel Data, Protected Lands** and **Healthy Community Indicators** projects; and pursue resulting recommendations. *A description of each data project can be found in Appendix B.*

Purpose: In 2010, the SGC approved four data project proposals. These projects will be supported through completion and data will be made publically available to support regional and local jurisdictions in their sustainable community planning efforts.

Methods: Cross-agency staff will continue working on the existing data projects through completion in accordance with the approved proposals and contracted statements of work. Recommendations resulting from data projects will be documented and presented to the Council for endorsement and implementation, as appropriate. Once completed, data will be made available to the public, as appropriate, through the ***data.sgc.ca.gov*** data library. Additionally, SGC staff will work with the Governor’s Office of Planning & Research and the California Technology Agency to ensure a consistent platform for distribution and sharing of statewide geospatial data.

Leads:

Vegetative Mapping: Department of Fish and Game

Parcel Data & Protocols: Air Resources Board, California Technology Agency, Board of Equalization

Protected Lands: Department of Fish and Game

Healthy Community Indicators: Department of Public Health

- 335 12. **Produce a 2013 Regional Progress Report** in coordination with the update of the Governor's
336 Environmental Goals and Policy Report.

337 **Purpose:** The Regional Progress Report serves as a resource for decision makers preparing for the
338 future of our state. The Report provides a baseline for measuring sustainability and progress made
339 over time by California's regions and the state as a whole. Measurement across approximately
340 twenty integrated, place-based quality of life indicators serves as a focused mechanism to drive
341 partnerships across all levels of government and between sectors. Taken together, these indicators
342 compose a snapshot of each region's trends, challenges, and successes in the areas of efficient
343 transportation and land use, economic competitiveness and opportunity, environmental health,
344 and resource efficiency and conservation. Identification of disparities in regional outcomes will help
345 inform SGC decision-making to focus on areas of need or specific issue areas to be addressed.

346 **Methods:** Indicators to be included in the 2013 Report will be updated to reflect the Council
347 members' priority policy drivers and associated outcomes to be targeted, in coordination with the
348 Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report being completed by the Governor's Office of
349 Planning and Research. SGC Executive Staff will work with contractor to develop interview protocol
350 and consult with Council members, Key Staff, and other stakeholders and experts on policy issues
351 and indicator priorities. Selection of indicators will be followed by data collection, analysis, and
352 recommendations for Council consideration.

353 **Lead:** SGC Executive Staff

Strategy 4

Recommend Policies Advancing Sustainable Communities

“Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities.”

Many of the foregoing actions may lead to recommendations for policy changes and/or investment strategies that enhance the effectiveness of State programs to support sustainable communities. Should this action plan lead to such recommendations, the Council may issue recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, or other state agencies, either by Council action or by other means, as needed. Additionally, events outside of the SGC’s action plan (such as future infrastructure bonds or legislative proposals) may lead to the Council offering recommendations that advance the concepts of sustainability.

Roles & Responsibilities

The success of the Strategic Growth Council and the preceding action plan depend upon the continued leadership of the Council Members, Key Staff, Executive Director, work groups, and active support of member agencies and departments. This level of commitment is outlined below.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The six Governor-appointed council members constitute the Strategic Growth Council itself. They have final responsibility and authority over all decisions within the SGC's purview.

Council Members will:

- Represent the strategic vision of the Governor.
- Provide leadership by directing their respective agencies to implement Council decisions.
- Provide direction to Executive Director and Key Staff to carry out the SGC's mission and Strategic Plan.
- Identify and provide necessary resources to support the SGC projects and programs, including a Key Staff member who represents the interests of their agencies.
- Attend SGC meetings and actively engage in discussions and decision making.
- Collaborate with agencies and departments (both within and beyond the SGC member agencies) in support of SGC objectives.

In addition, those Council Members representing a state agency will:

- Represent the interests of their respective agencies and the departments within.

In addition, the Public Member will:

- Represent the interests of the public, which may be ascertained by convening public stakeholder meetings as needed, in collaboration with the Executive Director.

KEY STAFF

Each Agency directly represented on the SGC has a Key Staff member, designated by that Council Member, who serves as a senior policy representative of the agency.

Key Staff will:

- With Executive Director, provide strategic guidance for SGC work efforts.
- With Executive Director and other Key Staff, develop staff recommendations and products for the Council.
- Serve as a liaison to their agency and departments to promote and support SGC objectives.
- Serve as (or designate) Leads for working groups; and identify work group participants.
- Attend regular Key Staff and Council meetings.
- Keep Council members informed of SGC activities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Council hires an Executive Director to manage day-to-day activities of the Strategic Growth Council. The Executive Staff supports the Executive Director in these efforts.

Executive Director will:

- Manage or oversee all work efforts initiated by the Council, including Strategic Plan implementation, and provide strategic direction for all such efforts.
- With Key Staff, develop staff recommendations and products to be taken to the Council.
- Represent the SGC through interaction and outreach with state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders.
- Provide administrative oversight of SGC functions and contracts.
- Organize and coordinate Strategic Growth Council meetings and Key Staff meetings.
- Keep Council Members and Key Staff informed of SGC activities and contracts.

WORK GROUPS

For assistance in conducting its business, the Council may establish Work Groups. Such groups gather information, conduct research, analyze relevant issues and facts, and draft proposed position papers and/or recommendations for deliberation by the Council. Given limited staffing for participation in multiple cross-agency workgroups, effort will be made to streamline the business and number of Work Groups.

Work Group membership will be determined based on the issues and outcomes sought for the given project or effort. Membership may include staff from SGC member agencies and departments, staff from interested agencies and departments that are *not* represented on the Council, and other interested parties as identified by the SGC Executive and Key staff.

Work Groups established by the SGC may not conduct business independent of the Council, represent the Council, or determine policy without approval of the Council as their role is to provide information and recommendations for consideration by the Council.

The Climate Change, Land Use & Infrastructure Work Group (CCLU-In) of the Climate Action Team is a cross-agency work group established to help coordinate the State's efforts that address climate change, land use, and infrastructure vulnerabilities and opportunities. Though CCLU-In is independent of the Strategic Growth Council, the similar mission and membership may lead the SGC to request that CCLU-In conduct research or provide analysis to the Council.

Looking Ahead

Strategic Plan Implementation

This Strategic Plan sets out an action plan for the Council over a three-year period, from 2012 through 2014. The actions will be prioritized for implementation, and an implementation plan will be developed for each of the twelve actions, detailing a timeline of specific tasks, required resources, and targeted milestones. Creating these implementation plans will be a joint effort between SGC Executive Staff and each action's lead agency/department, with guidance and direction from the Council.

Measuring Progress

By including timelines and milestones, each implementation plan will specifically address how that action's progress can be measured. The Council will regularly review the progress and status of each action to ensure they implement the SGC's mission and mandate, and adaptive management techniques will be employed. In addition to monitoring results to evaluate their effectiveness, strategies and actions may need to be adjusted in the face of uncertain resource (funding and staff) constraints.

Public Participation

Recognizing that public participation is central to the SGC's success, the Council and staff will actively seek opportunities for *broad* and *diverse* public engagement throughout Strategic Plan implementation. Each of the twelve implementation plans will highlight the public's role, and these opportunities for public input will be publicized on the SGC website and elsewhere, as appropriate.

Beyond 2014

Although this Strategic Plan maps an action plan for only 2012 through 2014, the SGC is cognizant of the need to consider its future beyond this three-year time horizon. As implementation of this plan progresses and its effectiveness is measured, the SGC will consider its future focus, work efforts, and resource needs.

Appendix A: Strategic Planning Process & Participants

In order to establish priorities over the next three years (2012 - 2014), the Strategic Growth Council embarked on a strategic planning process in May 2011. This was the first formal strategic planning process the Council had undertaken and included a robust public participation component. Through this process, the SGC was able to engage and receive valuable input from more than 150 stakeholders.

The effort began with interviews to inform the design for the Strategic Planning effort. Those interviews included SGC members, SGC Executive and Key Staff, local government, non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Subsequently, four half-day focus groups were held in June and July 2011 to allow stakeholders to meet and discuss how the SGC could be most effective in supporting California to achieve its sustainability objectives. Specifically, the events sought to understand stakeholder priorities and goals for the SGC given the constrained financial environment California faces; to seek advice on how to better leverage current efforts and resources given the board spectrum of organizations working around the state on sustainability related issues; to educate participants as to the SGC's legislative mandates and current programmatic efforts; and to network, encouraging stronger relations amongst those involved in sustainability efforts within state government, local government, and non-government organizations throughout California.

In August, 2011, the Council held an all-day strategic planning session. With participation from all 6 SGC members, and over 100 people in attendance from a wide-variety of organizations, the feedback received at this meeting was invaluable in shaping the content of this report.

The two key objectives of the session were to gather specific refinement on the goals for the Strategic Plan and to poll participants as to their view of the SGC's most important programmatic priorities, assuming constrained resources, through 2013. The goals and actions presented were drafted per the feedback received during the initial phase of the process. The secondary objectives of the session included opinions as to the SGC's "ideal future state", validation of draft criteria for implementation actions, and detailed input as to how those actions that participants deemed most important might be resourced best to ensure successful implementation.

RECURRING THEMES FROM STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- Success depends on leadership and vision from the Governor and Council Members.
- The Council must cut through regulatory contradictions and competing State mandates and priorities in order to achieve objectives.
- Supported efforts and programs should:
 - Include diverse public participation, create buy-in, and build capacity to increase awareness.
 - Be outcome oriented, include monitoring and provide data to inform future endeavors.
- Local governments and regional agencies need support and want to partner with the State to improve sustainability efforts.

- 485 • The SGC should focus on convening stakeholders to promote constructive dialogue and integrated
486 planning.
- 487 • The SGC should assist in efforts to help the State be competitive for federal funding.
- 488 • In order to ensure a culture shift throughout state government, committed participation is needed
489 from those at the agency secretary and department director level down to program staff to
490 understand and implement the sustainability programs and principles of the SGC.
- 491 ○ Some state employees are passionate and have expertise on topics related to sustainability, but
492 feel that they don't have the authority or approval to work on sustainability or inter-agency
493 collaboration. The state needs to find practical ways to support inter- and intra-agency
494 dialogue and coordination, incorporating this into job duties and expectations.

495 **STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS PARTICIPANTS**

- 496 • American Farmland Trust: Ed Thompson
- 497 • American Lung Association: Bonnie Holmes-Gen
- 498 • American Planning Association: Lauren Silva
- 499 • Applied Development Economics: Trish Kelly
- 500 • Association of Bay Area Governments: Ezra Rapport
- 501 • Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: Linda Meckel
- 502 • California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency: Acting Secretary Traci Stevens, Carol Farris
- 503 • California Chamber of Commerce: Amy Morgan
- 504 • California Air Resources Board: Doug Ito, Ryan McCarthy, Nancy McKeever, Lynn Terry
- 505 • California Association for Coordinated Transportation: Patrisha Piras
- 506 • California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators: Carleen Bedwell
- 507 • California Association of Councils of Governments: Bill Higgins
- 508 • California Association for Local Economic Development: Wayne Schell
- 509 • California Building Industry Association: Silvio J. Ferrari, Michael Winn
- 510 • California Climate Change Center: Jerry Jeffe
- 511 • California Department of Conservation: Bruce Gwynne, John Lowrie, Molly Penberth
- 512 • California Department of Education: Kathleen J. Moore, Kathleen Seabourne
- 513 • California Department of Fish and Game: Tom Lupo
- 514 • California Department of Finance: Michael Cohen, Madelynn McCain
- 515 • California Department of Forestry and Fire: May Klaas Suin, John Melvin
- 516 • California Department of Housing and Community Development: Cathy Creswell, Jennifer Seeger,
517 Linda Wheaton,
- 518 • California Department of Public Health: Kathy Devin, Jaquolyn Duerr, Neil Maizlish, Aimee Sisson
- 519 • California Department of Toxic Substances Control: Trina Gonzalez
- 520 • California Department of Transportation: Coco Briseno, Garth Hopkins, Andy Knapp, Marilee
521 Mortenson, Sharon Scherzinger, Joan Sollenberger, Martin Tuttle
- 522 • California Department of Water Resources: Mark Cowin, Kamyar Guivetchi, Charlie Kratzn, Gregg
523 Smith
- 524 • California Emerging Technology Fund: Sunne McPeak
- 525 • California Energy Commission: Panama Bartholomy, Anthony Eggert, Bill Pfanner

- 526 • California Environmental Protection Agency: Secretary Matt Rodriquez, Andrew Altevogt, Marian
- 527 Ashe, Claire Halbrook
- 528 • California Forward: Jim Mayer
- 529 • California Health and Human Services Agency: Secretary Diana Dooley, Suanne Buggy
- 530 • California High Speed Rail Authority: Michael Gimbel
- 531 • California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank): Roma Cristia-Plant, Winnie Fong,
- 532 John Lee
- 533 • California Natural Resources Agency: Secretary John Laird, Julie Alvis, David Harris, Patrick Kemp,
- 534 Seth Litchney
- 535 • California Ocean Protection Council: Amber Mace
- 536 • California Pan Ethnic Health Network: Sarah Mercer
- 537 • California ReLeaf: Joe Liszewski, Chuck Mills
- 538 • California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation: Brian Augusta
- 539 • California State Association of Counties: DeAnn Baker, Kiana Buss
- 540 • California Strategies LLC: Carole Whiteside
- 541 • California State University, Fresno: Mike Dozier
- 542 • California Technology Agency: Scott Gregory
- 543 • California Transit Association: Sabrina Means
- 544 • California Urban Forests Council: Nancy Hughes
- 545 • Center for Cities and Schools: Jeffrey Vincent
- 546 • City of Benicia: Elizabeth Patterson
- 547 • City of West Sacramento: Christopher Cabaldon
- 548 • ClimatePlan: Autumn Bernstein
- 549 • Conservation Strategies: Joe Caves, Connie Gallippi, Jessica Little
- 550 • Delta Stewardship Council: Jessica Pearson
- 551 • Design, Community and Environment Planning: Bill Fulton
- 552 • Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors: Katherine Aguilar- Perez, Brandon Louie
- 553 • Fresno Council of Governments: Barbara J. Steck
- 554 • Greenbelt Alliance: Jeremy Madsen
- 555 • Governor's Office of Economic Development: Florentino Castellon
- 556 • Governor's Office of Planning and Research: Chair Ken Alex, Chris Calfee, Chris Ganson, Allison Joe,
- 557 Michael McCormick, Scott Morgan
- 558 • Housing California: Felicity Lyons, Julie Snyder
- 559 • Infill Builders Association: Meea Kang, Terry Watt
- 560 • Institute for Local Government: Jessica Aviña, Lindsay Buckley, Kate Elliot, Christal Love, Steve
- 561 Sanders
- 562 • Latino Coalition of a Healthy California: Chad Silva
- 563 • League of California Cities: Kirstin Kolpitcke, Betsy Strauss
- 564 • Little Hoover Commission: Whitney Barazoto
- 565 • Local Government Commission: Judy Corbett, Kate Meis, Amy Mmagu
- 566 • National Charrette Institute: Steve Coyle
- 567 • Natural Resources Defense Council: Amanda Eaken

- 568 • Parsons Brinckerhoff: Gregg Albright, Meg Cederroth
- 569 • Placer County: Loren Clark
- 570 • PolicyLink: Chione Flegal
- 571 • Prevention Institute: Jeremy Cantor, Carolina Guzman
- 572 • Professional Engineers in California Government: Chelsea Merrill
- 573 • Resources Law Group: Gordon Burns
- 574 • Sacramento Area Council of Governments: Mike McKeever
- 575 • Sacramento County: Judy Robinson
- 576 • Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission: Chris Tooker
- 577 • Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District: Christina Ragsdale
- 578 • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy: Elisa Sabatini
- 579 • San Francisco Planning Department: Sheila Nickolopoulos
- 580 • San Luis Obispo Council of Governments: Steve Devonchenzi
- 581 • Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee: Bill Craven
- 582 • Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency: Daniel Wayne
- 583 • Sloat, Higgins, Jensen & Associates: Moira Topp
- 584 • Sonoma State University, Center for Sustainable Communities: Alex Hinds
- 585 • Southern California Association of Governments: Hasan Ikhrata, Jennifer Sarnecki
- 586 • Stanislaus Council of Governments: Vince Harris
- 587 • Strategic Growth Council: Heather Fargo, Tamara Cronin, Michael Larsen; Interns: Gladys Delgadillo,
- 588 Jeffrey Gordon
- 589 • Strategic Growth Council Public Member: Bob Fisher
- 590 • Sutter Buttes Tea Party: John T. Larimer
- 591 • The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities: Nina Bohlen
- 592 • The Nature Conservancy: Elizabeth O'Donahue
- 593 • TreePeople: Andy Lipkis
- 594 • Townsend Public Affairs: Ashley Setovdeh
- 595 • Tulare County Association of Governments: Roberto Brady
- 596 • UC Davis, Information Center for the Environment: Karen Beardsley, Nathaniel Roth, Kevin Ward
- 597 • UC Davis Extension: Julia Lave Johnston
- 598 • U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Cynthia Abbott
- 599 • Valley Vision: Bill Mueller
- 600 • WELL Network: Peggy Lauer
- 601 • Yolo County: Don Saylor
- 602 • Members of the public: Don Kessel; Tim McSorley; Luree Stetson

603

Appendix B: SGC Data Project Descriptions

Vegetative Mapping

This project provides vegetative mapping in high priority areas of the Sacramento Valley, filling an absent data set. Vegetation data plays a vital role in wildlife and natural lands conservation and management. This digital vegetation map will assist cities, counties, and regional entities in developing land use plans that protect important biological habitats.

Parcel Data & Protocols

A collaborative effort with California Technology Agency and Board of Equalization, this project will provide recommendations for new policies that cover development protocols (guidelines) and sharing of parcel data between local, regional, and state entities. Recommendations will also include consistent land use attributes, which will reduce data collection and compilation costs in the development of regional plans and scenario to support modeling for greenhouse gas emissions targets required under SB 375. Consistent parcel data will simplify the development of land use plans within and across regional boundaries.

Protected Lands

This project will compile protected lands data from disparate sources into a central GIS database for use in local, regional, and state planning; develop protocols (guidelines) for developing, updating, and sharing protected lands data for planning decisions; and make protected lands GIS data layer and information publically available. The project will reduce costs for jurisdictions that currently must collect or pay for this information, and will result in the development of better land use plans by providing a more complete and up-to-date protected lands data set.

Healthy Community Indicators

With guidance from Health in All Policies objectives, SGC staff, Key Staff and stakeholder input and review, and subject to coordination with the Regional Progress Report project, this project will create an associated set of healthy community metrics and provide a framework for establishing and monitoring community progress toward health and sustainability. The framework and indicator set will help cities/counties and regional partners develop plans and programs that meet broad sustainability objectives of SGC.

Appendix C: SB 732 (2008), Chapter 13

INTRODUCED BY Senator Steinberg

(Principal coauthor: Senator Negrete McLeod)

(Coauthor: Senator Wiggins)

APPROVED BY GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

CHAPTER 13. STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION

75120. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Council" means the Strategic Growth Council established pursuant to Section 75121.

(b) "Regional plan" means either of the following:

(1) A long-range transportation plan developed pursuant to Section 134(g) of Title 23 of the United States Code and any applicable state requirements.

(2) A regional blueprint plan, which is a regional plan that implements statutory requirements intended to foster comprehensive planning as defined in Section 65041.1 of, Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 65080) of Division 1 of Title 7 of, and Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code. A regional blueprint plan articulates regional consensus and performance outcomes on a more efficient land use pattern that supports improved mobility and reduces dependency on single-occupancy vehicle trips; accommodates an adequate supply of housing for all income levels; reduces impacts on valuable farmland, natural resources, and air quality, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increases water and energy conservation and efficiency; and promotes a prosperous economy and safe, healthy, sustainable, and vibrant neighborhoods.

75121. (a) The Strategic Growth Council is hereby established in state government and it shall consist of the Director of State Planning and Research, the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and one member of the public to be appointed by the Governor. The public member shall have a background in land use planning, local government, resource protection and management, or community development or revitalization.

(b) Staff for the council shall be reflective of the council's membership.

75122. The members of the council shall elect a chair of the council every two years.

75123. (a) The council's meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(b) The council may sponsor conferences, symposia, and other public forums, to seek a broad range of public advice regarding local, regional, and natural resource planning, sustainable development, and strategies to reduce and mitigate climate change.

75124. Of the funds made available pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 75065, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated to the Resources Agency to be used in support of the council and its activities in accordance with this chapter.

75125. The council shall do all of the following:

(a) Identify and review activities and funding programs of member state agencies that may be coordinated to improve air and water quality, improve natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing

with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), encourage sustainable land use planning, and revitalize urban and community centers in a sustainable manner. At a minimum, the council shall review and comment on the five-year infrastructure plan developed pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 13100) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 3 of the Government Code and the State Environmental Goals and Policy Report developed pursuant to Section 65041 of the Government Code.

(b) Recommend policies and investment strategies and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and to appropriate state agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those communities that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety, and is consistent with subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 75065.

(c) Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies that will assist in developing and planning sustainable communities.

(d) Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129. To implement this subdivision, the council may do all of the following:

(1) Develop guidelines for awarding financial assistance, including criteria for eligibility and additional consideration.

(2) Develop criteria for determining the amount of financial assistance to be awarded. The council shall award a revolving loan to an applicant for a planning project, unless the council determines that the applicant lacks the fiscal capacity to carry out the project without a grant. The council may establish criteria that would allow the applicant to illustrate an ongoing commitment of financial resources to ensure the completion of the proposed plan or project.

(3) Provide for payments of interest on loans made pursuant to this article. The rate of interest shall not exceed the rate earned by the Pooled Money Investment Board.

(4) Provide for the time period for repaying a loan made pursuant to this article.

(5) Provide for the recovery of funds from an applicant that fails to complete the project for which financial assistance was awarded. The council shall direct the State Controller to recover funds by any available means.

(6) Provide technical assistance for application preparation.

(7) Designate a state agency or department to administer technical and financial assistance programs for the disbursing of grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities, pursuant to Sections 75127, 75128, and 75129.

(e) No later than July 1, 2010, and every year thereafter, provide a report to the Legislature that shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) A list of applicants for financial assistance.

(2) Identification of which applications were approved.

(3) The amounts awarded for each approved application.

(4) The remaining balance of available funds.

(5) A report on the proposed or ongoing management of each funded project.

(6) Any additional minimum requirements and priorities for a project or plan proposed in a grant or loan application developed and adopted by the council pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 75216.

75126. (a) An applicant shall declare, in the application submitted to the council for financial assistance for a plan or project pursuant to this chapter, the applicant's intention to follow a detailed budget and schedule for the completion of the plan or project. The budget and schedule shall be of sufficient detail to allow the council to assess the progress of the applicant at regular intervals.

(b) A project or plan funded pursuant to this chapter shall meet both of the following criteria:

(1) Be consistent with the state's planning policies pursuant to Section 65041.1 of the Government Code.

(2) Reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), and any applicable regional plan.

(c) The council may develop additional minimum requirements and priorities for a project or plan proposed in a grant and loan application, including those related to improving air quality.

75127. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a city or county for preparing, adopting, and implementing a general plan or general plan element that is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage greater infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and revitalize urban and community centers.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the preparation and adoption of a general plan may include a comprehensive update of a general plan, amendment or adoption of an individual element of a general plan, or any other revision consistent with the intent of Section 75065.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the implementation of a general plan may include amendment or adoption of a specific plan, community plan, zoning ordinance, or any other plan, ordinance, or policy that is consistent with the intent of Section 75065.

(d) The funding provided pursuant to this section for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of a general plan may also include funding any activity necessary to conform a general plan to a regional plan.

75128. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, regional transportation planning agency, city, county, or joint powers authority, to develop, adopt or implement a regional plan or other planning instrument consistent with a regional plan that improves air and water quality, improves natural resource protection, increases the availability of affordable housing, improves transportation, meets the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), and encourages sustainable land use. The financial assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be funded from moneys made available pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 75065.

(b) In awarding financial assistance pursuant to this section, the council shall give first priority to an application seeking funding to add or enhance elements of a regional plan that are not funded with federal moneys.

75129. (a) To support the planning and development of sustainable communities, the council shall manage and award financial assistance to a city, county, or nonprofit organization for the preparation, planning, and implementation of an urban greening project that provides multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, a decrease in air and water pollution, a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy, an increase in the reliability of local water supplies, or an increased adaptability to climate change. An eligible project funded pursuant to this section shall not include a mitigation action that is required under existing law. The financial assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be funded from moneys made available pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75065.

- 748 (b) The council shall develop minimum requirements for funding eligible projects pursuant to this section, which shall
749 require a project to meet at least one of the following criteria:
- 750 (1) Use natural systems, or systems that mimic natural systems, to achieve the benefits identified in subdivision (a).
751 (2) Create, enhance, or expand community green spaces.
- 752 (c) The multiple benefits of a project, may include, but are not limited to, the establishment or enhancement of one or
753 more of the following:
- 754 (1) Tree canopy.
755 (2) Urban forestry.
756 (3) Local parks and open space.
757 (4) Greening of existing public lands and structures, including schools.
758 (5) Multi-objective stormwater projects, including construction of permeable surfaces and collection basins and
759 barriers.
760 (6) Urban streams, including restoration.
761 (7) Community, demonstration, or outdoor education gardens and orchards.
762 (8) Urban heat island mitigation and energy conservation efforts through landscaping and green roof projects.
763 (9) Nonmotorized urban trails that provide safe routes for both recreation and travel between residences, workplaces,
764 commercial centers, and schools.
- 765 (d) The council shall give additional consideration to a funding project pursuant to this section that meets one or more
766 of the following criteria:
- 767 (1) The project uses interagency cooperation and integration.
768 (2) The project uses existing public lands and facilitates use of public resources and investments including schools.
769 (3) The project is proposed by an economically disadvantaged community.
- 770 (e) Up to 25 percent of the moneys allocated pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75065 may be used to award
771 revolving loans or grants to a council of governments, countywide authority, a metropolitan planning organization,
772 local government, or nonprofit organization, for the purpose of creating urban greening plans that will serve as the
773 master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant's jurisdiction. These urban greening
774 plans shall be consistent with the jurisdiction's general plan or regional plan, where one exists.
- 775 75130. This chapter does not authorize the council to take an action with regard to the exercise of a local
776 government's land use permitting authority.
- 777 SEC. 5. In any case in which any of the provisions of this act, and Division 43 (commencing with Section 75001) of the
778 Public Resources Code conflict, that division shall prevail.
- 779 SEC. 6. The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that
780 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or
781 application.